

Proposed staff analysis on Salmon and Crab bycatch measures
10/11/03

The Council recommends that the alternatives on p.5 of the Salmon and Crab Bycatch Measures for GOA Groundfish Fisheries paper not be adopted at this time and that the analysis be expanded to include, to the extent practical, a discussion of the following:

A comparison of salmon bycatch with hatchery salmon releases (in Alaska, Japan and Canada) and regional salmon run strength and catch of foreign origin salmon.

Red king crab and Bairdi bycatch data relative to population estimates for all gear types.

Use of observer data. The discussion would include a table of the % of observed catch by region by season and methods of extrapolation for unobserved vessels (smaller long line fleet), conversion of observer data to identify catch in State waters, and any known problems with the use of observer data.

Other fisheries in which salmon and crab bycatch occurs C ie. pot codfish and pollock bottom trawl.

The reasons for the high bycatch of the Aother salmon@category between 1993-95 and provide salmon bycatch data by month by area.

Description of gear specific salmon and crab mortality rates.

Bairdi bycatch in the pacific cod pot fishery - extrapolate as needed to provide numbers for state waters fishery.

Inclusion in the draft alternatives of a BSAI style bycatch pool hotspot management alternative, an alternative that provides for red king crab bycatch protections and an Aother salmon@bycatch protections alternative.

Changes in the regulatory requirements for observer coverage in the pot cod fishery.

Discussion of how crab and salmon bycatch limits integrate with Gulf Rationalization.

Distribution and population information on Tanner and king crab will be provided from survey data.